

INFORMATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Belorussian SSR)

DATE DISTR 2 October 1951

SUBJECT Tractor Plant in Minsk

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1. The Minsk Tractor Plant (Minskiy Traktorny Zavod - MTZ) was located three km. east-southeast of the outskirts of Minsk, near the south side of the Minsk-Moscow railroad line. Northeast of the plant, on the other side of the railroad line, was the village of Slep'yanka. The plant area bordered a workers' settlement to the southwest, which was still under construction. An airfield was located northeast of the plant, and a completely new industrial area was being constructed southeast of the plant. This project included a ball-bearing plant, a storage battery plant, a bicycle plant, an automobile plant, and an electric power plant. The MTZ plant had spur tracks and a street connection to Minsk and other industrial areas southeast of the plant. There was also a network of narrow-gauge tracks within the plant itself. A double-track streetcar line was under construction on the highway.

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2. [redacted] there were some plant installations on the location even before the war. The Germans had an air force depot here, which the Soviets turned into a tank repair plant during the last year of the war. The reconstruction of the destroyed areas of the plant, and its conversion into a tractor plant, began in 1945. Construction was not yet complete as of October 1949. The workshops were partially equipped with dismantled German machinery.

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3. The plant covered an area of about 1 x 1.5 km.; [redacted] the area 1 x 2 km. The plant consisted of a foundry, a tool department, an engine department, and a forge. The assembly departments were still under construction. There were also a number of auxiliary installations, including a sawmill, a carpentry shop, and a repair department. Power was supplied by an electric power station in Minsk, but there were frequent power failures. Power was scheduled to be supplied, at a later date, from an electric power station two or three km. southeast of the MTZ; meanwhile, the plant had a Diesel power installation.

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4. Until the fall of 1949, the plant produced mainly tools and parts for the construction of plant installations. There was a small-scale production of 30 gasoline starter motors daily, and tractor parts and plows were also produced. [redacted] the assembling of completed tractors, [redacted] completed tractors were not produced at this plant.

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5. The plant was said to employ about 3,000 workers in 1949. Work was done in three 8-hour shifts. Forty per cent of the workers were women. The plant area was surrounded by a wooden fence and was guarded by plant police.

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Comment. In 1950, the plant was scheduled to manufacture 5,000 tractors, consisting of both MTZ-1 type wheel tractors, with the front wheels closer together than the rear wheels, and MTZ-2 type tractors, with the front and rear wheels the same distance apart. The Kirovets caterpillar tractor is presumably the KD-35 type, which is equipped with a 35 hp Diesel engine. The production of KT-12 type trailer tractors was begun in Minsk in 1952.

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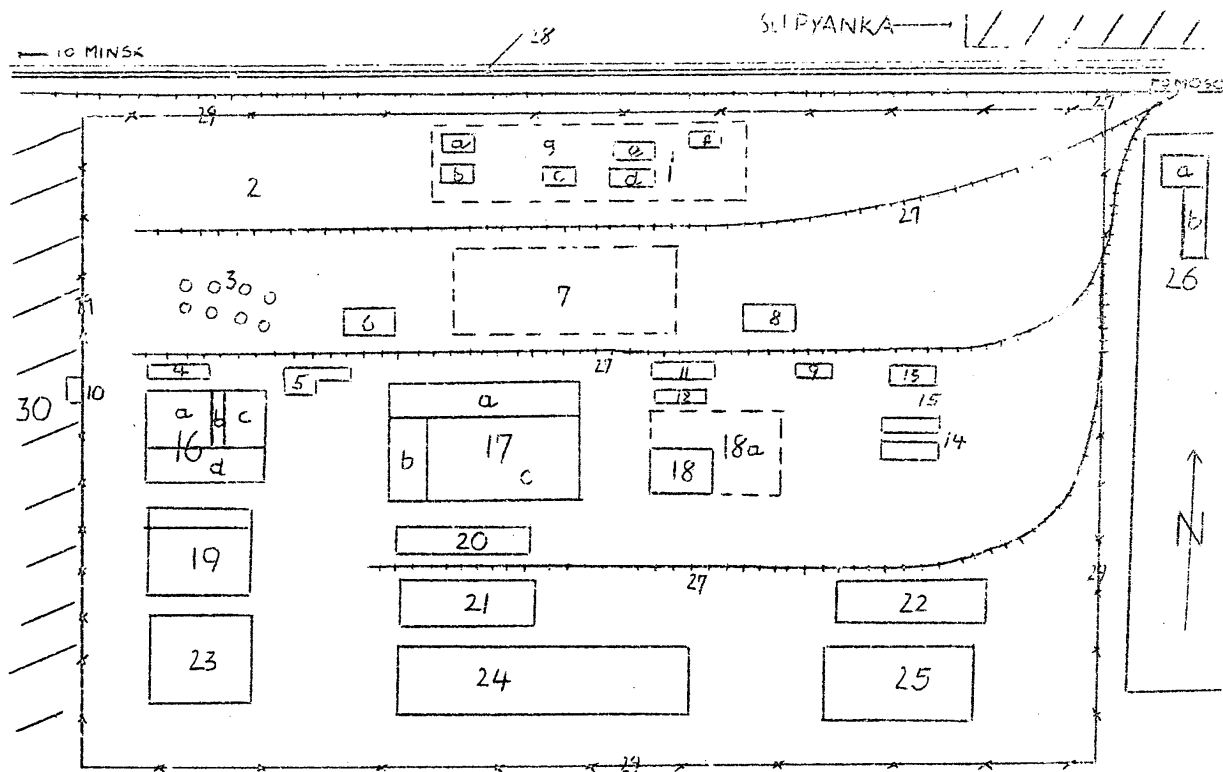
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Layout Sketch of the Tractor Plant in Minsk

Legend: See next page.



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Legend:

1. Wood-working department.

- a. Carpentry shop equipped with 2 planing machines, 2 circular saws, and several hand-operated machines. Windows, doors, floor boards, and simple furniture for plant requirements were produced here.
- b. Carpentry shop equipped with 2 circular saws and several hand-operated machines. Crates and lumber for walls, were produced for plant requirements.
- c. Wood drying installation, equipped with 4 hot-air chambers.
- d. Sawmill equipped with 2 saw frames of 8 blades each, and 1 large edging machine (Sagummaschine). Lumber for plant requirements was produced.
- e. Sawmill equipped with 2 saw frames of 8 blades each, 1 American-made high speed saw frame, 1 small saw frame, 2 edging machines, 1 groove and tongue machine (Nut- und Federmaschine), 1 circular saw, and 1 beading machine (Leistenschneidemaschine). Floor boards and other lumber for plant requirements were manufactured.
- f. Steam boilerhouse under construction.
- g. Wood dump.

[redacted] the wood-working department had one small forge and one repair shop, but he could not indicate the location of these shops.

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- 2. Storage place OT (sic) for metals including iron, copper, and zinc. Also used as a coal dump.
- 3. Oil and fuel depot OT (sic), consisting of 5 oil tanks with a capacity of 10,000 to 20,000 liters, made of steel plate, and 2 gasoline tanks of the same size.
- 4. Warehouse for construction material and spare parts for machinery.
- 5. Diesel power station, equipped with one large, new German-made Diesel unit. There were also several small machines, but further details were not known. The installation had a stone smokestack, 50 meters high, and a sheet metal smokestack, 20 meters high. [redacted] this installation was the boiler house for the heating of the plant.
- 6. Technical designing office. [redacted] technical designs, including tank drawings [redacted]
- 7. Open-air storage place where hundreds of metal working machines of all kinds were stored.
- 8. Workshop OGM (sic) used for the production of small machine component parts and for repair purposes. It was equipped with 30 machine tools including lathes, milling and drilling machines. An electric repair shop with an armature winding shop and an automobile fitting shop were attached to the OGM workshop. Automobiles, trucks with hoisting gear, cranes and electric motors were repaired in these shops. Concrete mixing machines, dump trucks, elevators for construction material, and steam rollers were produced.

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9. Fuel pump, equipped with several fuel tanks and 300 x 100 barrels, each with a capacity of 200 liters.
10. Transformer for the power supply coming from the diesel unit was put into operation during power failures which frequently occurred at night.
11. UPS (sic) fire department equipped with 3 modern fire engines. There was also one garage where 6 trucks were parked and one small forge.
12. Fire pond.
13. MSS (sic) workshop for processing steel structural (Stal'nostrukturnaya) for plant construction purposes. According to one source its equipment included 8 small and medium lathes, 2 drilling machines, 1 punching machine, 3 milling machines, and 1 riveting hammer.
14. Two temporary barracks buildings where motor vehicles were parked. These buildings were used in conjunction with the MSS workshop to process structural steel. The installation was called "Traktorist".
15. Dump for rails, girders, angle iron and round iron.
16. Tool department, also called Workshop No. 1 by Soviet workers.
 - a. Machine shop equipped with numerous machine tools
 - b. Workshop equipped with 50 to 70 modern automatic lathes. One worker could operate up to 10 automatic lathes simultaneously.
 - c. Forge equipped with 3 medium hammers, 1 heavy hammer, and 3 annealing furnaces.
 - d. Office of the department manager, one Molinov (fnu).

[redacted] the following equipment 50X1-HUM
 for the entire department: 10 lathes, 1.2 to 2.4 meters long; 15 circular grinding machines; 5 turret lathes; 1 planing machine; 6 boring and-turning lathes; 2 British-made special grinding machines for the manufacture of drills; 2 jig drilling machines; 6 hardening furnaces, each with a capacity of 1.5 cubic meters; and 1 sandblast unit. Tools of all kinds for plant requirements were produced, as well as spare parts, screws, and bolts. Flows were produced as a sideline.

17. Foundry, also called workshop No. 1 by Soviet workers.
 - a. Foundry, hand molding shop, drying chambers, and shop for cleaning castings.
 - b. Office.
 - c. Smelting shop, equipped with 2 furnaces. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 the furnaces were open-hearth furnaces. They were charged with scrap by a crane.

A small forge, a transformer station and offices were on the upper floor. The production included component parts for tractors. [redacted]

[redacted] a toolmaker by profession, the capacity of the foundry was only 50 to 60 percent utilized. 50X1-HUM

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18. Factory building used to house Soviet convicts.

a. Fenced-in yard.

The building was to be vacated by late 1949 and was to be equipped as a production workshop.

19. Engine department, also called Workshop No 22 by Soviet workers. Its equipment included 25 lead-screw lathes (Leitspindel-drehbänke), 30 planing machines, 25 milling machines and 1 automatic assembly line. Thirty machines for the complete processing of large engine blocks were connected with the assembly line. Engine testing installations and offices were in the same building. The production of 1.5 hp gasoline starter motors and tractor component parts was observed. [redacted] the assembly of tractors was also to be done in this workshop temporarily. 50X1-HUM

20. Plant school, a three-story building.

21. AF camp, housed in a former factory building. The building was being reconstructed in 1949 and was later to be equipped as production workshop.

22. Concrete stone factory equipped with a steam boiler installation, drying chambers and stone presses.

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25. New buildings, completed in rough brickwork but not equipped as of late 1949. [redacted] the building, identified as item 23 of the sketch, was to be used for the final assembly of tractors. [redacted] two large steam hammers being moved into the workshop. The other two workshops were scheduled to be used for the construction of undercarriage and car bodies. 50X1-HUM

26. Airfield.

a. Administration building.

b. Workshops.

27. Spur tracks.

28. Highway with streetcar line.

29. Fence.

30. Residential area, partly under construction.

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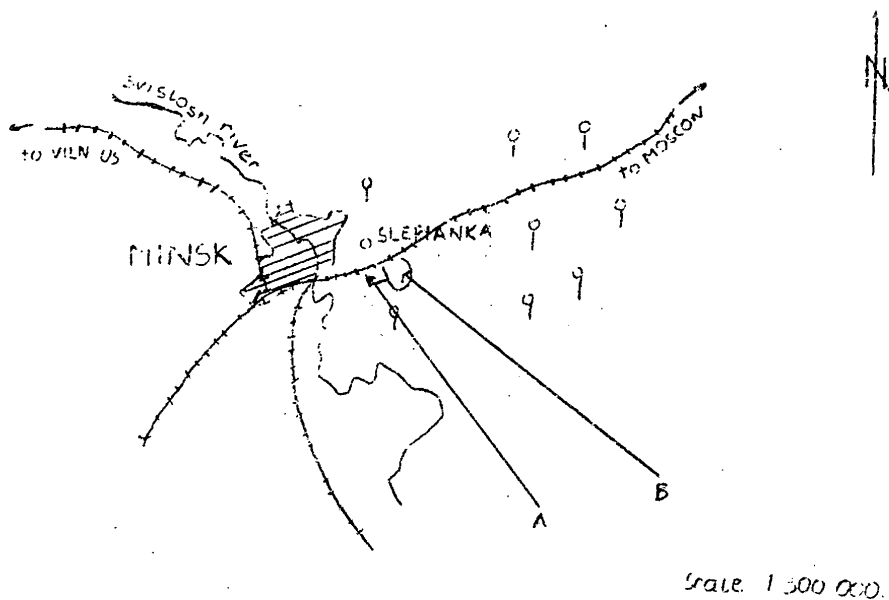
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Location Sketch of the Tractor Plant in Minsk



Legend:

A. Minsk Tractor Plant.

B. Airfield.

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